

THE SALT LAKE VALLEY
COALITION TO END
HOMELESSNESS

JANUARY 2022

# REPORT ON HOMELESSNESS



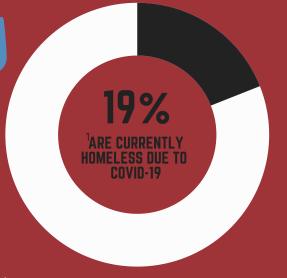
#### **ENTRY TO HOMELESSNESS**

Beginning FY2021, <sup>2</sup>2,142 men, women and children were experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake County. Over the year, <sup>2</sup>8,427 more people entered homeless services. While the cause of homelessness is unique for each person, the solution remains the same: *Affordable housing and case management*.

10,569

<sup>2</sup>People experienced homelessness in state fiscal year 2021 in Salt Lake County.

When you support funding for deeply affordable and permanent supportive housing with case management, you give vulnerable Utahns a chance at a stable life.



<sup>1</sup>19% of people interviewed during the Fall 2021 Point in Time (PIT) count reported that COVID-19 caused their homelessness.

#### COVID-19

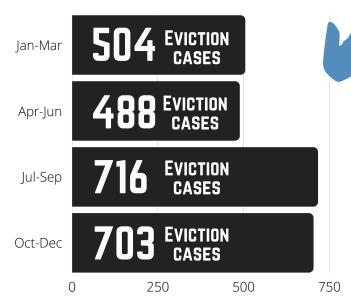
One out of five individuals surveyed in a Fall 2021 PIT count were avoiding community shelter, fearing exposure to the COVID-19 virus. 19% also reported currently experiencing homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rental assistance helps people stay housed, promoting vaccination and masks helps ensure the safety of individuals in shelter.

#### **EVICTIONS**

While a person can be evicted with just 3 days notice, an eviction can last on a their record for 10 years, severely hindering their ability to secure housing long-term.

Review Utah's eviction laws to address inequitable access to safe and stable housing.



<sup>4</sup> 2,411 evictions were filed in Salt Lake County in 2021, including a 30% increase in Fall and Winter.



<sup>6</sup>Average case load in the three single adult Homeless Resource Centers in Salt Lake County and the family resource center.

### CASE MANAGERS KEY TO SUCCESS

On average, each case manager coordinates housing and resources for 40 people, connecting clients with what they need to be successfully housed.

Increased funding means additional funding for needed case managers and competitive wages for staff of homeless service providers.

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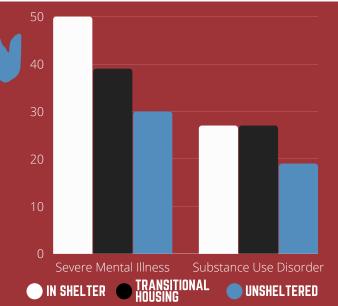
#### **WAITING ON HOUSING**

Even individuals who need little more than affordable housing may end up being confined to a bunk bed in a resource center for roughly three months due to a lack of available housing.

Funding for deeply affordable housing and case management will mean more people moving out of shelter to permanent solutions faster.

# 87 NIGHTS

<sup>2</sup>Average length of time an individual experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake County spends in emergency shelter.



<sup>1</sup>Percentage rates of two self-reported indicators of need by those surveyed during the Fall 2021 PIT Count.

#### INDICATORS OF NEED

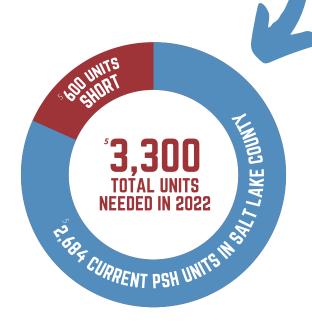
Many individuals experiencing homelessness struggle with chronic disease, disability, domestic violence, addiction, or mental illness. Access to housing with integrated support services and case management provides a safe place to heal. Once in permanent supportive housing, 296.1% of individuals stay housed.

Vote to increase long-term funding for Permanent Supportive Housing and case management in Utah.

### A SHORTAGE OF PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Housing is the solution to homelessness and there needs to be access to supportive services such as case management for those that need it most. Currently, there are 2,684 PSH units in Salt Lake County, leaving a deficit of 600 PSH units. In addition, **280 PSH units** must be added annually to meet the growing need.

Include Gov. Cox's call for \$128 million for housing and services in the budget.



Number of people exiting homelessness to permanent housing in the 2021 fiscal year:

## 1649

#### MORE HOUSING, MORE STABILITY.

Of those <sup>2</sup>10,569 individuals experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake County last year, only 15% confirmed finding a permanent place to call home. Access to housing is impacted by the county's rental vacancy rate of less than <sup>3</sup>2%, the difficulty of finding a unit when a voucher is available, and a deficit of housing units for people at or below 30% Area Median Income (AMI)—with additional units needed each year to account for Utah's rapidly growing population.

#### **HOW CAN YOU BUILD LASTING CHANGE IN UTAH?**

- Support the Governor's budget request of \$128 million to address homelessness and \$100 million for deeply affordable housing.
- Support investments in supportive services such as mental health care, substance use disorder treatment and case management.
- Commit to long term investments in housing and services to move people out of homelessness and prevent homelessness from occurring.

#### Questions?

Contact the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness: slvceh.info@gmail.com endutahhomelessness.org/salt/lake/valley/

#### **Sources**

¹Fall 2021 Point In Time Count
²Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)
³Kem Gardner State of the State's Housing Market, Oct. 2021
⁴Utah Courts: 2021 Case Filings Report, Eviction Filings
⁵ Housing Now - by the SLVCEH
ổ Data collected from The Road Home and Volunteers of America